



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF
FOR

SERIAL NO.
FILED
CONFIRMATION NO.
EXAMINER
ART UNIT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

Stephen John Lee
IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING
TO REFRACTORY PRODUCTS

09/856,609
November 26, 1999
9900
Scott R. Kastler
1742
BE7344PCT(US)

8/c
Ab
12/13/02

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
DEC 11 2002
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2002, entry of the following
amendments is respectfully requested:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following abstract:

ABSTRACT

A refractory device for use in the teeming of molten metal comprising a ceramic body
having a ceramic pouring tube element (10, 20) and a ceramic support element (12, 22), said
support element being adapted to be received within a metallic can (11, 21), and there is
provided between said elements a pyroplastic shock-absorbing interface zone (13, 24) wherein
there is provided a material the thermal properties of which are such that it is substantially solid